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PEACE IN SCANDINAVIA.

We have received an interesting account of recent Peace efforts in Norway and Sweden, by M. K. P. Arnoldson, of Stockholm, late a member of the Swedish Parliament. He has, for months past, been holding meetings and delivering lectures in various parts of the great Scandinavian Peninsula, where he has been exposing the evils of militarism and the advantages of Peace and Arbitration. He has addressed gatherings in thirteen towns of north and central Sweden, and eighteen in Norway. His journeys and labor have also included the important towns of Bergen and Gothenburg. In the former alone he gave fourteen addresses.—*London Herald of Peace*.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT HARRISON.

The President sent a message to Congress June 2, covering a letter of Secretary Blaine which endorses the recommendations of the Pan-American Congress. In addition to other matters, the Secretary recommends the erection by the nation of a hall at Washington in which future congresses like the "Maritime" and "American" may hold their sessions. We trust it will be completed in season for the World's Peace and Arbitration Congress of 1893. The Washington dispatch is as follows:

"The conference also at its final session decided to establish in the city of Washington as a fitting memorial of its meeting a Latin-American library, to be formed by contributions from the several nations, of historical, geographical and literary works, maps, manuscripts and official documents relating to the history and civilization of America, and expressed a desire that the Government of the United States should provide a suitable building for the shelter of such a library, to be solemnly dedicated upon the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America. 'The importance of these suggestions,' says the President, 'is fully set forth in the letter of the Secretary of State.' Secretary Blaine, in his letter, recommends that Congress appropriate \$250,000 to provide a safe and suitable building to receive and protect the proposed collection, which building may also be used for the offices of the proposed bureau of information, and contain a hall or assembly room for the accommodation of such international bodies as the two conferences that have just adjourned."

As the Maritime Conference was European as well as American, the hall will be open to properly called conferences of all nations.

THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT.

BERLIN, June 9. The committee of the Reichstag on the Army bill held another session to-day. Chancellor Von Caprivi appeared before the committee and expressed his concurrence in the statement made by General Verdy du Vernois, Minister of War, that it would be impossible to reduce the term of compulsory military service.

The Chancellor alluded to the resignation of Prince Bismarck, and said that though his withdrawal from the Chancellorship had rendered the conduct of business difficult, it had made no change whatever in Germany's relations with other Governments. Dr. Windthorst, the leader of the Clerical party, and Herren Richten and Rickert, leaders of the Freisinnige party, declared that the bill would not be acceptable to their parties unless the term of service was shortened. The prospects of an agreement between the Government and the Opposition on the bill is therefore remote.

THE CONDITIONS OF DISARMAMENT.

The question of disarmament is one of difficulty even to those who believe armaments provocative of war. Germany proposes to increase her standing army so that it will amount to 500,000 active and effective troops, not counting the volunteers for a year. The Emperor recommends this on the ground that France has done as much. This is "tit for tat"—the opposite of the Golden Rule,—force not love. Such is to-day the attitude of great nations. So long as governments deny the obligation and practicability of Christianity, I do not see but they are logical in appealing to the *lex talionis*—law and penalty—the Old Testament ethics, which Christ came to supersede by a higher law. Disarmament, if practicable at all, must take place upon these principles:

1. It must be *gradual*. This to save the sudden shock of the dismissal to civil life of millions of men now under discipline untrained to labor, and thus unprepared for citizenship. There is danger that sudden disarmament would at once augment the idlers, the strikers and the mobs. Only one country, our own, could have absorbed at once into civil life the vast armies of the civil war. It put the United States to a tremendous strain, though its soldiers were originally citizens—never "professionals"—and readily took up business occupations. Sudden emancipation of slaves is to be deprecated, and soldiers have some disabilities common to slaves. Let disarmament then be gradual.

2. It ought to be *simultaneous*. As nations are now constituted it *must* be. One nation will not lead another, if both are equally armed, in disarming. France and Germany must agree, first, how many troops to disarm; secondly, at what time. Russia will be harder to win to disarmament, for her statesmen will allege the greater difficulties which she has to encounter in the vastness of her territory and the increased obstacles thus put in the way of raising and massing of troops. Germany and France may each dismiss 100,000 men to-day, and call them together within a short time as did Napoleon after Elba in France. Great Britain would allege the world-wide character of her dominions—the need of military supervision in Africa, Asia, and at her distant islands—and the difficulty of a recall if once she dismisses her present force or any considerable part of it. The United States is not "armed." The question for it to solve, is, "Does any necessity exist here for great armaments?" Any general argument in favor of disarmament in Europe should tell against armament in America. Simultaneousness could then be secured only with two, possibly three, leading powers; in this they must themselves take the initiative.

3. It must be *mutual*. Neither France nor Germany would consider disarmament except as a mutual act. The lesser powers might easily follow their example, especially Italy, if freed from the obligations of the triple alliance. Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark, would gladly lessen their armies and their expenditures. As soon as a mutual agreement could be made a general disarmament would follow.

4. The disarmament must be *proportional*. This in the interest of equity and the balance of forces.

It seems to me that a gradual, simultaneous, mutual and proportional disarmament is practicable. Interest, economy, morality, safety and peace call for it. The Pope has addressed the Emperor of Germany, characterizing the numerous Peace military establishments as